REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner indicated that the present application includes claims to the following inventions:

I.   Claims 1-6, drawn to a data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 100.

II.   Claims 11-15 and 61-64, drawn to network configuration and determination using a particular technique, classified in class 370, subclass 255.

III.   Claims 16-21, drawn to access another computer's memory, classified in class 709, subclass 216.

IV.   Claims 22-27, drawn to multicomputer data transferring, classified in class 709, subclass 213.

V.   Claims 28-35, drawn to computer conferencing, classified in class 709, subclass 204.

VI.   Claims 36-48, drawn to input/output data processing, classified in class 710, subclass 1.

VII.   Claims 49-54, drawn to computer-to-computer data framing, classified in class 709, subclass 236.

VIII.   Claims 55-56, drawn to computer-to-computer data modifying, classified in class 709, subclass 246.

IX.   Claims 7-10 and 57-60, drawn to input/output command process, classified in class 710, subclass 5.

The Applicant withdraws the claims in Groups I and III – VIII, as identified by the Examiner. He also provisionally elects, with traverse, the claims that the Examiner identified as Group II. In addition, the Applicant amends claims 7, 11, 57 and 61 and adds new claims 65-67 in order to be more consistent with the nature of the elected invention. The Applicant also herein amends the title to be more consistent with the remaining claims.

After Applicant's withdrawal of the claims comprising Groups I and III – VIII, only the claims comprising Groups II and IX remain. Without asserting or admitting in any way that the Inventions as identified by the Examiner are not patentably distinct, the Applicant submits that the restriction requirement is improper with regard to Groups II and IX. The search and examination of these groups can be made without serious

burden. The Examiner must therefore examine the application on the merits. *See* MPEP § 803.01.

The claims of Group II (claims 11-15 and 61-64) correspond with the claims of Group IX (claims 7-10 and 57-60). For example, claim 11 describes a method for aliasing an input in a premises automation system, while claim 7 describes machine-readable memory containing a data structure for doing the same thing and claim 15 describes an apparatus for doing much the same thing. Dependent claims 8-10 similarly correspond with claims 12-14. Independent claims 57 and 61 also correspond, as do their dependent claims 58-60 and 62-64. Furthermore, Applicant anticipates that the Inventions of Group II and Group IX will typically be used together. As a result, separate examination of the Inventions in Group II and Group IX would involve significant duplication of effort and would also likely result in substantially the same search results.

The corresponding inventions should therefore be examined in the same application as the search and examination can be performed without serious burden. On the contrary, the cost of the Applicant of pursuing each of the individual Inventions is substantial. If the Examiner has any questions about the present response or anticipates final restriction that rejects the traverses made herein, a telephone interview is respectfully requested.
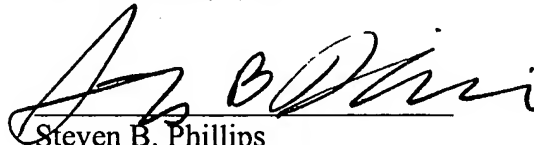
Because this paper seeks to withdraw a majority of the claims from the original application, amend several claims and add several new claims, the new title better describes the disclosed invention as claimed.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter D. Hallenbeck

Date: 25 July 05   By: _____
                         Steven B. Phillips
                         Registration No. 37,911
                         Attorney for Applicant
                         Moore & Van Allen, PLLC
                         P.O. Box 13706
                         Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
                         Telephone: (919) 286-8000
                         Facsimile: (919) 286-8199